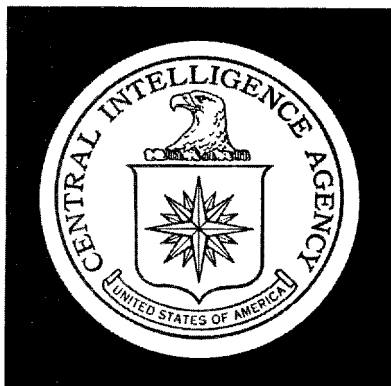


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

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16 March 1967

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Information as of 1600
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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The Communists' campaign of mortar harassment against allied military objectives continues, with new attacks reported northwest of Saigon and in northern I Corps (Paras. 1-2). Nearly 1,200 Chinese Communist - manufactured weapons, in addition to other materiel, have been salvaged from the Communist trawler grounded and destroyed along the northeastern coast of Quang Ngai Province on 14 March (Paras. 3-5).

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MACV has accepted five enemy administrative service units into its order of battle (Paras. 9-15).

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam: There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The Communists' campaign of mortar harassment against US and South Vietnamese military objectives continued on 15 March with attacks reported northwest of Saigon and in the coastal lowlands of I Corps.

2. The base camp and rear command post of the US 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi (18 miles northwest of Saigon in Hau Nghia Province) and the forward command post of the US 196th Infantry Brigade (60 miles northwest of Saigon in Tay Ninh Province) were struck by enemy mortar fire. US casualties were 38 wounded. In addition, Viet Cong mortar crews attacked the ARVN Ranger Training center at Trung Lap, 30 miles northwest of Saigon in Hau Nghia Province, inflicting 30 friendly casualties. In northern coastal Quang Nam Province, a Vietnamese Regional Forces company based at Hieu Duc district headquarters eight miles southwest of Da Nang sustained 15 casualties from an enemy 81-mm. mortar bombardment.

War Materiel Salvaged From Communist Trawler

3. Allied forces have completed salvaging materiel from the 100-foot steel-hulled Communist trawler which was intercepted by US Navy coastal surveillance units along the northeastern coast of Quang Ngai Province on 14 March.

4. Some 1,180 Chinese Communist - manufactured weapons--including 1,150 carbines (7.62-mm.), 27 light machine guns (7.62-mm.), two 12.7-mm. machine guns, and one 57-mm. recoilless rifle--were recovered from the beach and sea area where the vessel was grounded and subsequently blown up by its crew. Many of the weapons were reconditioned models of 1954-1955 vintage. The badly mangled condition of the great majority of recovered weapons--resulting from the explosion--has made a precise inventory of the firearms difficult.

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5. In addition to weapons, salvage crews have recovered large quantities of Chinese- and Soviet-manufactured mortar, recoilless rifle and small-arms ammunition, medical supplies, personal equipment, and spare parts. It is probable that more materiel is still in the water.

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Order of Battle Developments

9. MACV has accepted five enemy administrative service units with a combined strength of 5,000 men into its order of battle. The acceptance of these units will raise OB strength in the administrative service category from 18,000-19,000 men to 23,000-24,000 men. These are not five enemy units new to South Vietnam--some have been in existence since 1962. The change in OB, however, reflects the increasing availability of information [REDACTED]

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10. The new administrative service groups are as follows:

<u>Category Of Acceptance</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Probable Location</u>
Confirmed	Group 81	500	Long Khanh
Confirmed	Group 82	2,000	Tay Ninh
Confirmed	Group 83	1,000	Binh Duong
Confirmed	Group 84	1,000	Phuoc Tuy
Probable	Group 86	500	Phuoi Long

11. These groups are subordinate to the Rear Service Bureau of the Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN). Each group has an organizational structure at the headquarters level similar to that of a regiment. They have been referred to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] as rear service regiments and/or groups. There are no known battalion-level organizations subordinated to these groups. The subordinate units are of company, platoon, section, and squad echelon. Only the general area of operations of these units is known.

12. The functions of the groups include the procurement, distribution, production, and transportation of food, supplies, and munitions, and the provision of medical care and facilities within their operational

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areas. For example, Group 82, which operates in an area known to the VC as "Logistical Area B," supports elements of the VC 9th Light Infantry Division as well as COSVN headquarters. Group 83 operates in War Zones "C" and "D" in an area known to the VC as "Logistical Area C," while Group 84 serves the 5th VC Division in "Logistical Area E."

13. There have been some indications of the existence of a Group 85 and a Group 87. There is insufficient evidence at this time, however, to accept these groups into order of battle holdings.

14. These five newly accepted units are what MACV calls rear service technical units or non-combat military support units. They are part of one of the major elements which go to make up the administrative service category in the OB. The other components comprise the personnel of military staffs from the national to the district level in the VC organizations. For the most part, the rear service technical units are directly subordinate to staffs at the national down to the district levels.

15. The administrative service category of the OB is by no means complete as far as MACV is concerned. There are still large numbers of non-combat military personnel who are not listed. These include many performing a transportation function, district staffs, all medical personnel subordinate to national, regional, provincial, and district headquarters, smaller signal units as well as large numbers of personnel working in Viet Cong base areas. This latter category includes personnel performing ordnance, and quartermaster functions, repair and maintenance personnel, and soldiers engaged in running such facilities as recruit depots, training centers, and POW camps.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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